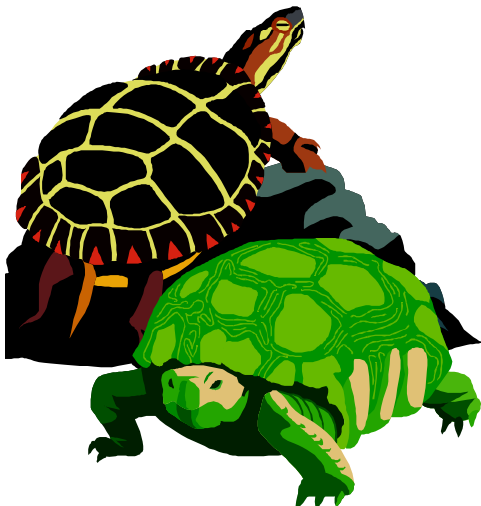


Reptiles Can Carry Salmonella Bacteria, Which Can Make People Sick

Below are recommendations for preventing transmission of *Salmonella* from reptiles to humans:

- ◆ Persons should always wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling reptiles or reptile cages.
- ◆ Persons at increased risk for infection or serious complications of salmonellosis (e.g., children aged <5 years and immunocompromised persons) should avoid contact with reptiles.
- ◆ Pet reptiles should be kept out of households where children aged <5 years or immunocompromised persons live. Families expecting a new child should remove the pet reptile from the home before the infant arrives.
- ◆ Pet reptiles should not be kept in childcare centers.
- ◆ Pet reptiles should not be allowed to roam freely throughout the home or living area.
- ◆ Pet reptiles should be kept out of kitchens and other food-preparation areas to prevent contamination. Kitchen sinks should not be used to bathe reptiles or to wash their dishes, cages, or aquariums.



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